

buildings and facilities, promoting resource efficiency by using recycled and sustainable products, and recycling used material, and increasing the use of biofuels in State automobiles and improving their fuel efficiency.

Across Iowa, communities large and small are following the example set by the State government, and in many places blazing their own path. These efforts must be replicated across the country and around the world if we are to curb the emission of greenhouse gases and protect our planet for future generations.

IN CELEBRATION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF JACKSON'S 170TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 8, 2008*

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, on May 4, 2008, First Baptist Church of Jackson, Mississippi will celebrate its 170th anniversary. First Baptist Church of Jackson has a rich history and has grown immensely in size over the years, not only in members but in its outreach to the community through different ministries.

When the church was founded in 1838, Jackson was a 16 year old village with less than 600 people and was struggling to become the permanent seat of state government. Although the early years of the church proved difficult with an economic depression, a yellow fever epidemic, and the Civil War, the church still grew strong in its relationship to God and continued to reach out to others in the name of Jesus Christ.

God has blessed First Baptist Church of Jackson because on May 4, the church stands 170 years old and occupies a 750,000 square foot facility in downtown Jackson. It also includes a sanctuary that seats 3,000; a chapel; two fellowship halls; a Christian Life Center with two regulation basketball courts; rock climbing wall; racquetball court; walking track; fitness facilities; and a fully staffed counseling center. Currently, they have a weekly television broadcast of their Sunday service that covers much of Mississippi as well as a national broadcast on Direct TV. In 2006, First Baptist Church of Jackson established a Madison Campus that has 200 active members today.

First Baptist Church has centered its ministries on connecting people to God through faith in Jesus Christ so that their lives can be transformed into passionate followers of Christ. Today, ministries of the church include an inner-city ministry that has a medical clinic, dental clinic, and legal clinic as well as after school programs for children. Other ministries include help for women recently released from prison and a ministry for international citizens from over 26 countries that teaches them English and assists them in adjusting to life in America. Last year, First Baptist sent hundreds of members across America and throughout the world to build homes and churches, provide medical and dental care, and spread the love of God.

Madam Speaker, I hope the Congress joins me in celebrating with First Baptist Church of Jackson. For 170 years, the church has served out its battle cry, "Connecting People, Transforming Lives into Passionate Followers

of Jesus Christ." This momentous occasion is a true testament of the service, commitment, love, and foundation this church is built upon. May the Lord continue to bless First Baptist in the years to come.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PORT JEFFERSON ELKS LODGE

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 8, 2008*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of an established and important landmark in New York's first congressional district—the Port Jefferson Elks Lodge.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is one of the oldest, largest and most respected private organizations in the United States. From its humble beginnings in 1868, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has grown to nearly 1.3 million men and women with 2,300 local lodges throughout the country.

Through these local branches, the Elks organization has contributed more than 5.6 million volunteer hours and \$142 million in philanthropic service last year alone. Many of my constituents are proud hosts of the Port Jefferson Elks Lodge, and many more of my constituents are beneficiaries of the Lodge's invaluable service and contributions to the community.

Since 1958, the Port Jefferson Elks Lodge has been recognized as a benevolent order dedicated to serving the community, including their notable service to our nation's youth and returning veterans. The members of the Port Jefferson Lodge support numerous charitable and patriotic activities in my district—from awarding youth scholarships and aid to disadvantaged families to local food pantry and veterans' program donations.

Through its "Helping Hand" dinner, the Port Jefferson Elks Lodge recently raised \$37,000 for a local Marine Corps veteran, Richard Kramer, who died from cancer due to Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam. The lodge donated funds and hosted events at its facility in order to gather community support for the Kramer family. This is a shining example of the Port Jefferson Elk's mission of goodwill and just one among many good deeds performed by the Elks on behalf of the veterans and citizens in our community who are most in need.

I am proud to represent the Port Jefferson Elks Lodge. It is an ally and champion of our continuing efforts to ensure that our veterans receive their deserved benefits and the best quality of life—a small price to pay in return for their bravery, sacrifice, and honorable service to our country. The Elk's mission is best reflected by their pledge: "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent the Port Jefferson Elks Lodge and to recognize its 50th anniversary. On behalf of New York's first congressional district, I thank the Lodge and its members for their steadfast dedication to eastern Long Island and for embodying their cherished principles of "charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity".

HONORING MRS. PINKIE PARKER HARDY

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 8, 2008*

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mrs. Pinkie Parker Hardy. We lost our beloved Mrs. Parker Hardy on April 3, 2008. She led a full and vibrant life during her 91 years on this earth, raising a loving family and mentoring many in her church and community.

On May 19, 1916, Pinkie Parker was born in Washington, Louisiana to Alice White and John Parker. During Pinkie's life, she witnessed many of the Nation's most turbulent and controversial moments. Growing up in the south in the first quarter of the last century, Pinkie was self-educated and she devoted her energies to her community, her family, and her faith. She was a life-long resident of Eunice, Louisiana.

In 1936, at the age of 20, Pinkie Parker married Herman Joseph Hardy. From this loving union, five sons and two daughters were born. In 1949, Mrs. Hardy, a devout and extremely active member of this congregation until she became ill just last year.

Mrs. Hardy contributed immeasurably to the growth and service of St. Mathilda Parish during her life. Bishop Flynn appointed her as the first Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist at St. Mathilda. She also served as Lector and Parish Council President for several years. For 50 years, Mrs. Hardy was an active member of the Knights of Peter Claver (KPC) Council No. 92. Mrs. Hardy spent 26 of those years serving as the Grand Lady of KPC.

In 1987, Mrs. Hardy was the recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award from the Diocese of Lafayette. In 2002, she received the Bishop's Medal for devoted service to her church and society.

It is clear that Mrs. Hardy was an indispensable component of her community. She came of age and lived her adult life during the most tumultuous and influential political period in American history. Mrs. Hardy's life exemplifies that of many African-Americans during this century, their struggle for human rights and civic freedom, and their strength and perseverance.

These important men and women are seldom recognized for their greatness. Mrs. Hardy's life is one to be remembered and admired as an example of the true work and inner fortitude that keeps this country together. These individuals dedicated their lives in the service of their God and community in the face of incredible odds. Each and every one of them had a unique story, a special impact, and a loving family. Mrs. Pinkie Parker Hardy was a member of mine.

On a very personal level, Mrs. Hardy was "family" to me. She shared her deep religious faith, her wonderful Creole cooking (especially her gumbo) and her insights as a strong, yet gentle African-American woman with me on several occasions. To know "Mrs. Pinkie" was to love her.

Mrs. Pinkie Parker Hardy will be sorely missed by all those who loved her and were honored to have her kindness and spirit touch their lives. Her memory and legacy will live on through her seven children, a daughter-in-law,